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SOVIETS TEST NEW ICBM, TREATY QUESTION RAISED
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THE SOVIET UNION HAS FIRED A NEW INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE, IN A TEST WHICH COULD RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER MOSCOW IS VIOLATING THE UNRATIFIED SALT II NUCLEAR ARMS TREATY, U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAID LATE TUESDAY.

OFFICIALS SAID A SMALL, SOLID-FUEL MISSILE WAS LAUNCHED FEB. 8 FROM PLESetsk AND THAT PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION PICKED UP BY AMERICAN MONITORING EQUIPMENT SUGGESTS IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL TEST OF A SECOND NEW SOVIET ICBM.

"IT WAS A MISSILE WE HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE," SAID ONE OF THE SOURCES, WHO SPOKE ONLY ON CONDITION THEY NOT BE NAMED.

U.S. OFFICIALS CONFIRMED LAST DECEMBER THAT THE SOVIETS HAD TEST-FIRED A MEDIUM-SIZED, SOLID-FUEL ICBM.

THE SALT II TREATY SPECIFIES THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES MAY FLIGHT-TEST AND DEPLOY ONLY ONE NEW TYPE OF ICBM, WHICH MUST BE A LIGHT ONE, ACCORDING TO A JULY 21, 1979, LETTER SIGNED BY THEN-SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE IN SUBMITTING THE TREATY TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

THERE WAS NO FORMAL COMMENT FROM EITHER THE DEFENSE OR STATE DEPARTMENTS. OFFICIALS CAUTIONED AGAINST JUMPING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BROKEN THE AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES NEVER RATIFIED SALT II, THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID IT WILL ABIDE BY IT SO LONG AS THE SOVIETS DO THE SAME.

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE NOT "AWARE OF ANY CHARGES THAT THE SOVIETS MAY BE PREPARING TO VIOLATE THE AGREEMENT." THESE OFFICIALS, LIKE THE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, INSISTED THAT THEIR NAMES NOT BE USED.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED LAST DECEMBER THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD FLIGHT-TESTED A NEW TYPE OF ICBM. THEY DID SO AFTER REPORTS THAT A MEDIUM-SIZE SOLID-FUEL MISSILE HAD BEEN LAUNCHED OCT. 26 BUT THAT ITS FIRST-STAGE ROCKET MOTOR FAILED.

IN LATE DECEMBER, AMID NEW REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS PREPARING FOR ANOTHER MISSILE TEST, STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ALAN ROMBERG SAID THAT "IF THEY BEGIN TO TEST ANOTHER NEW TYPE OF ICBM, THIS WOULD CONFLICT WITH THE TERMS OF SALT II."

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